

Project Number: **215219**  
 Project Acronym: **SOA4ALL**  
 Project Title: **Service Oriented Architectures for All**  
 Instrument: **Integrated Project**  
 Thematic Priority: **Information and Communication Technologies**

## D12.3.1 Initial SOA4All Website

Activity N:	4	
Work Package:	12 . Dissemination	
Due Date:	31/5/2008	
Submission Date:	31/5/2008	
Start Date of Project:1/3/2008	01/03/2006	
Duration of Project:	36 Months	
Organisation Responsible of Deliverable:	CEFRIEL	
Revision:	1.0	
Author(s):	CEFRIEL	

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013)		
Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission)	

## Version History

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments, Changes, Status</b>	<b>Authors, contributors, reviewers</b>
0.9	30/04/2008	Internal document - sent to all members of the consortium through Mailing List	CEFRIEL
1,0	31/5/2008	Final version	CEFRIEL

# Table of Contents

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 INTRODUCTORY EXPLANATION OF THE DELIVERABLE	4
1.2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE	4
1.3 STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT	4
<b>2. SOA4ALL INITIAL WEB SITE (HTTP://WWW.SOA4ALL.ORG)</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 JOOMLA	5
2.2 STRUCTURE OF EACH PAGE	6
2.3 STRUCTURE OF THE SITE	7
<b>ANNEX A) A COMPARISON OF FOUR EU PROJECT WEBSITES</b>	<b>10</b>

# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1 Introductory explanation of the deliverable**

The deliverable 12.3.1 is the initial project web site. It is reachable at the URL <http://www.soa4all.org>.

A first version of the SOA4All website is running already at this time, even if both contents and functionalities will evolve through the project life. The look and feel of the site is obviously based upon the branding developed in task 12.2.

## **1.2 Purpose and Scope**

The aim of this document is to describe the steps performed for developing the initial SOA4All web site reachable at the URL <http://www.soa4all.org>, which is the main deliverable.

## **1.3 Structure of the document**

The document is organized in 3 sections:

1. This introduction
2. SOA4All initial web site
3. Annex A) ) A comparison of four EU project Websites

## 2. OA4All initial web site (<http://www.soa4all.org>)

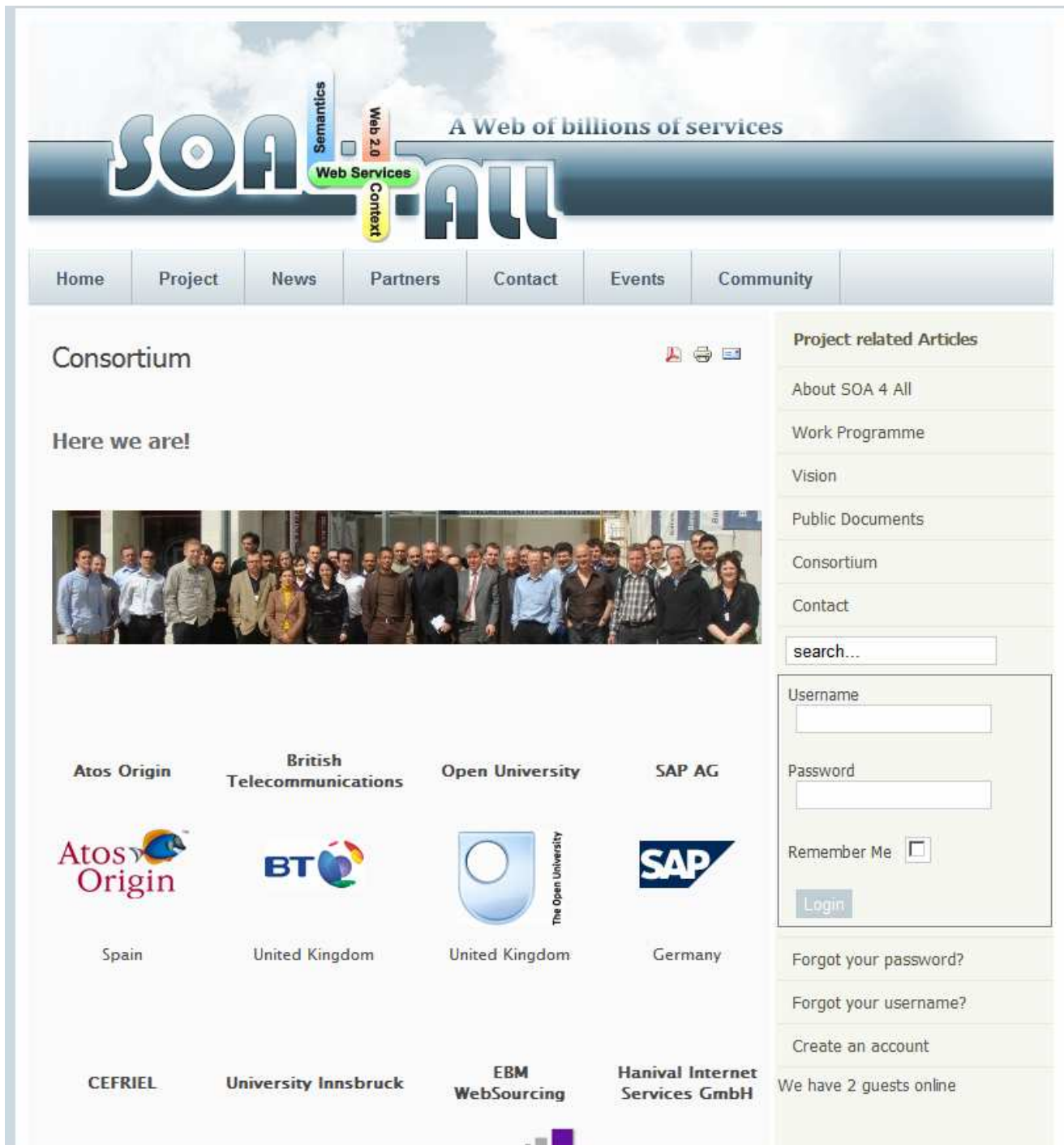


Figure 1 - Initial SOA4All web site

### 2.1 Joomla

Joomla! is a free, open source content management system for publishing content on the world wide web. For the developing of [www.soa4all.org](http://www.soa4all.org) the 1.5.2 version has been used. In the administration section (beck-end) it is possible to customize what is then publicly displayed in the front-end.

The customization is made through the activation of what are called extensions. An

extension can be of one among these three types:

- **Component**: mini-application to render the main page body
- **Module**: renders small html blocks on any page
- **Plugin**: changes code behavior dynamically.

Some extensions can be installed and added to those that are natively given within the CMS. The additional extensions are developed by the members of the community and are all collected and reviewed at [extensions.joomla.org](http://extensions.joomla.org).

For the developing of [www.soa4all.org](http://www.soa4all.org) the following extensions have been added.

#### **Added components:**

EventList – to manage and display events

jb2 (jooBlog2) – to provide blogging functionality (posts, comments, categories, rss)

PhocaGallery – that enables the creation of picture galleries in 4 different formats

Remository – in order to handle a file repository

#### **Added modules:**

Eventlist – to display the recorded events as a list

EventlistCal – to display a calendar where events are highlighted

jb2\_latest – to display the latest posts of the blog

RemositoryMulti – to display the files that are uploaded in the repository

ShoutBox – to display live comments of registered users

#### **Added plugins:**

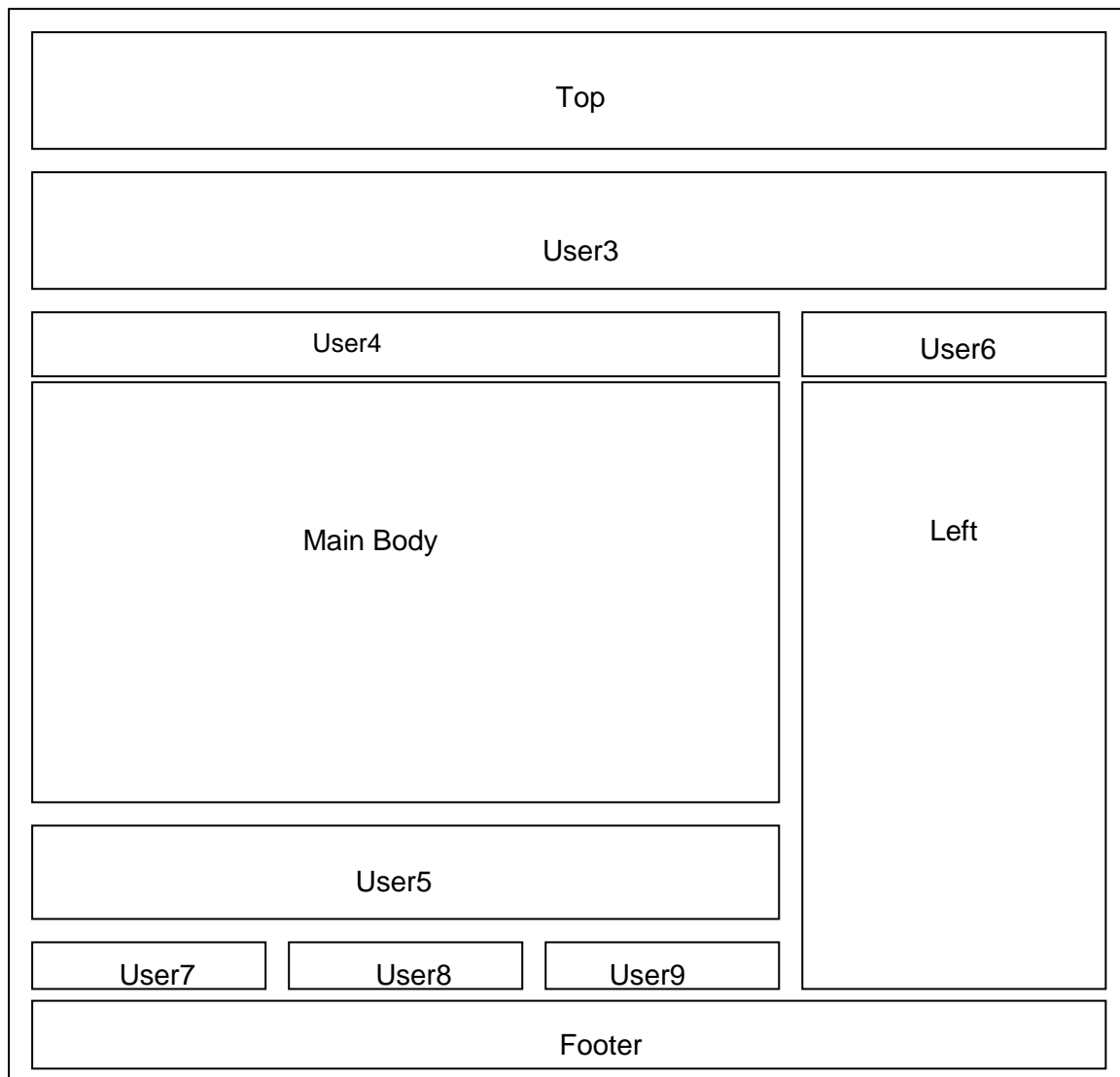
Phoca Gallery Plugin – to show categories or images of Phoca Gallery within an article text or content

JooFox Content Title – to have a specific page title when viewing a content item (this helps with Search Engine Optimization)

## **2.2 Structure of each page**

We decided to use a template called *Beautiful Day* developed by [JoomlaJunkie Community](http://JoomlaJunkieCommunity.com) and to properly customize it according to the objectives and style of [www.soa4all.org](http://www.soa4all.org). Firstly the logo and background images were adapted but also the structure of the pages, modifying the positions of some modules in the index file.

The following sketch shows the structure of each page; some modules are used in all pages, some are activated only in specific pages.



*Figure 2 -Sketch of the positioning of the Joomla modules in each page of the website*

## **2.3 Structure of the site**

### **Home**

The front page contains the news in its main body and the links to all the available content of the whole site.

### **Project**

This is conceived as the section for all the “static” content. Articles describing the project, its vision, its schedule, the consortium and the publications about it are considered part of this kind of content.

### **Community**

Those articles that are thought to be more interactive are collected in this second section. It is called *community* because it is intended to engage all the participants to the project and any other interested user. A blog, an events list and a bookmarks list are the current topics, but many more tools and possibilities are desirable (forum, user profiles...).

We want to underline that this separation of the articles in two sections is not so well defined, as many topics may well be conceived in the first section as in the second. In fact, some content is linked from more than one place.

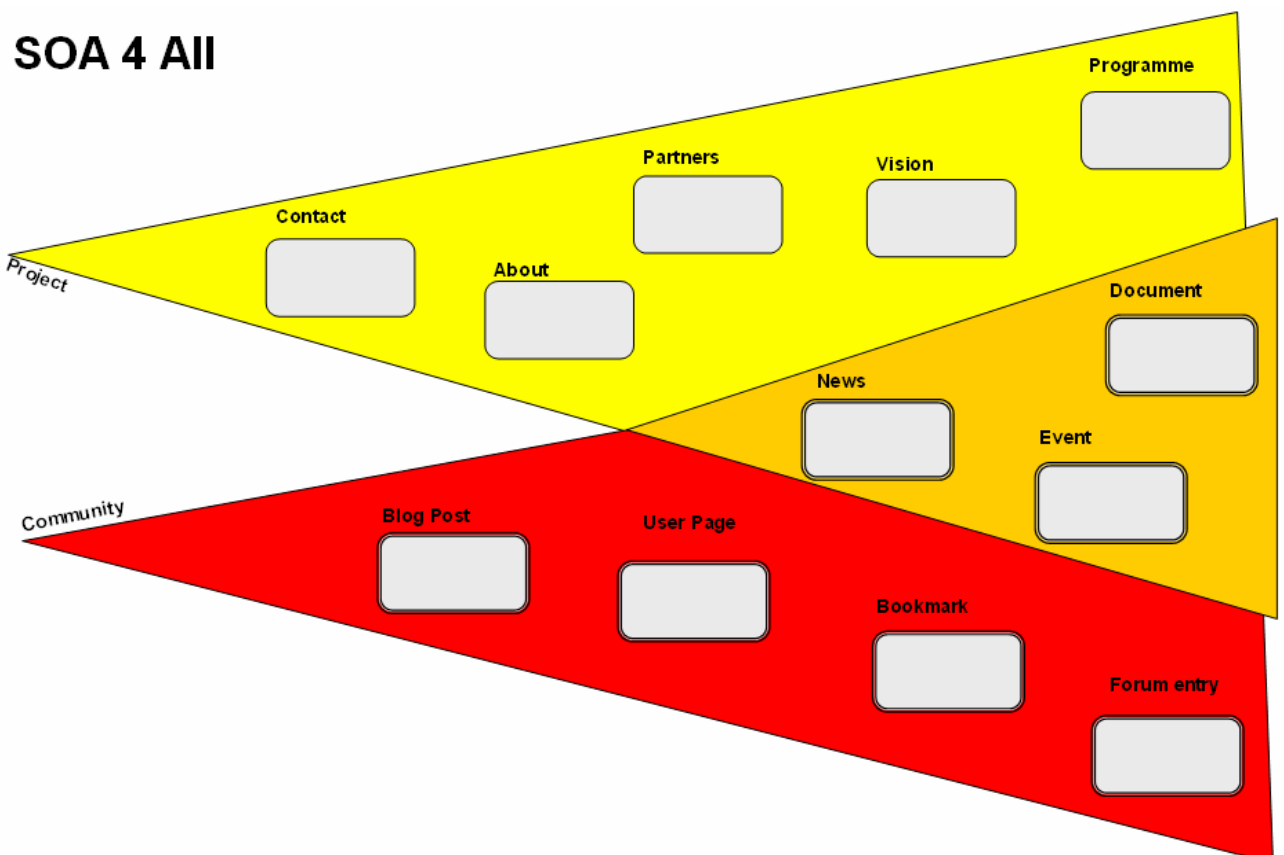


Figure 3 - Some typologies of content can be conceptually conceived in both sections of the website

### Services

We called “services” all those actions that a user can take while surfing the website but that are not definable as “content”. The services activated so far are listed below but many more services and possibilities are desirable.

- log-in form and users management
- feeds (RSS 2.0 and Atom)
- textual search in all articles
- external links to other projects or initiatives
- polls

### Customize error messages

In order to avoid the user the bad experience of a 404 error message, it could be customized from the apache server and made atoAbove all the



### **More community components**

As already highlighted in the previous paragraph, some more components could be installed in order to better support the community and the exchange among users. Examples and ideas could be the adding of a **forum** and the activation of a **profile page** for each registered user.

Moreover, the current blog component could be substituted with a **multi-user blog** component, as soon as such an extension is developed by the Joomla community, in order to make it easy to publish a blog post from the front-end as well.

### **Two-level users**

It could be better exploited the proposal of a two-level private area, where some more confidential content can be accessed only by a **sub-set of registered users**.

### **More content**

Some **static pages** are still quite poor in content.

The community section (that is the entire dynamic content) needs to be set as soon as possible and **updated periodically** in order to keep the users and the community engaged and interested in the project.

## **Annex A) A comparison of four EU project Websites**

In order to design a rich and effective community section for [www.soa4all.org](http://www.soa4all.org), we took a look at other similar websites. In particular, the observation focused on four other projects approved in the seventh framework programme.

What follows are the results of this analysis: for each site it is specified a list of all the public sections as well as a list of the tools available to the registered users (community). A final comment tries to summarize the overall impression of the website, underlining the “best practices” that can be imitated during the design phase of [www.soa4all.org](http://www.soa4all.org) and the most common errors that should be avoided.

As [www.soa4all.org](http://www.soa4all.org), also the four other project websites are at their initial phase. It could be useful to repeat this survey and the comparison as the projects go on in order to reach two objectives: first, to monitor if the websites increase their size according to the development of the researches they accompany and, above all, to keep checking if [www.soa4all.org](http://www.soa4all.org) is in line with all the others.

### **The results of the analysis**

**[www.SHAPE-project.eu](http://www.SHAPE-project.eu)**

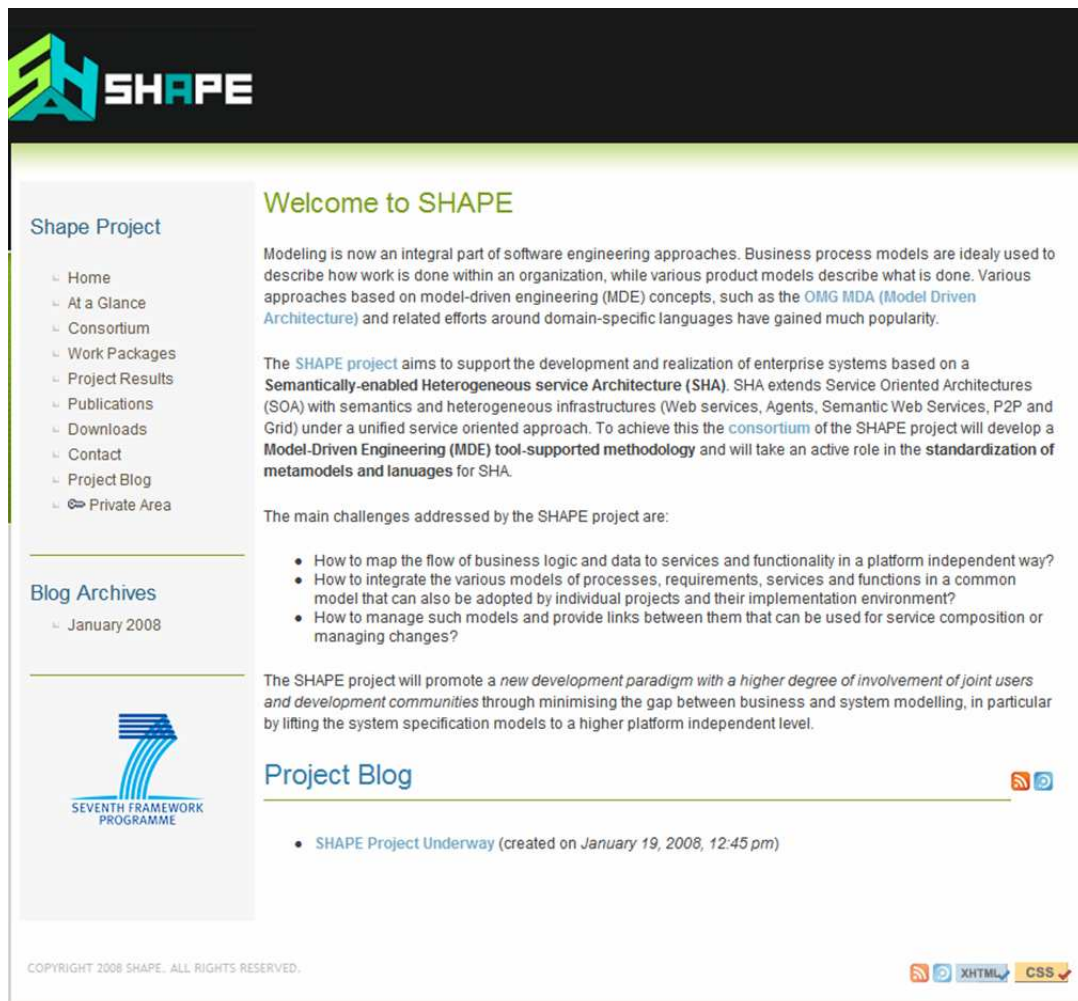


Figure 4 - Shape Homepage

*Public sections:*

- Project overview and goals
- A list of partners (divided into research, technology and service provider)
- A list of all the Work Packages expected to be completed in the project course
- Results and deliverables
- White papers and other publications about the project
- Downloads (poster and fact sheet)
- Contacts (Project Coordinator and webmaster)
- Blog

*Community (private area):*

The community section is hosted by a professional company called Sintef. The list of features that follows is taken from <https://project.sintef.no/eRoomHelp/en/eRoom-7.htm>

- Shared folders

- Forum / Message board
- “Notes” (system that allows to add comments and files to a message left by another user)
- Polls
- Shared calendar
- Project plans (tasks description and Gantt charts with the possibility to add comments)
- Shared databases
- Internal message (e-mail) system
- Bookmarking of both internal and external resources

*Other services:*

- RSS and Atom feeds

*Comment:*

Although the dissemination of the research methods and results are mostly intended for other researchers, it is not to be excluded that also non-experts (clients, businesses) are interested in the project and would like to acquire information about its results and benefits. It seems that the very technical approach used to write the public sections does not help the comprehension by people coming from other fields. Some overlapping can be noticed between the publications section and the download section.

The private area is not open to anyone but only to the team members; therefore, the analysis has been based on the features declared on the provider site.



Figure 5 - Alive Homepage

*Public sections:*

- Project overview, approach and goals
- A list of partners
- News
- Publications (fact sheet)
- Links (divided into categories according to their theme)
- Contact
- Blog

*Community (private area):*

- Editable profile

- Links submission (Bookmarking)

*Other services:*

- RSS, Atom and OPML feeds
- Search box
- Rich contact services (form and V-Card)
- “Pdf version”, “print” and “email to a friend” buttons available for each text box

*Comment:*

The public sections are rich and well connected. A lot of useful services are given.

There is no need to be part of the team in order to get an access to the community area: after a quick registration, anyone gets the possibility to bookmark a relevant resource on the web and to provide the link to the other visitors as well as to edit some details in their personal page. However the community area is not very rich and there is limited possibility to interact with other members.

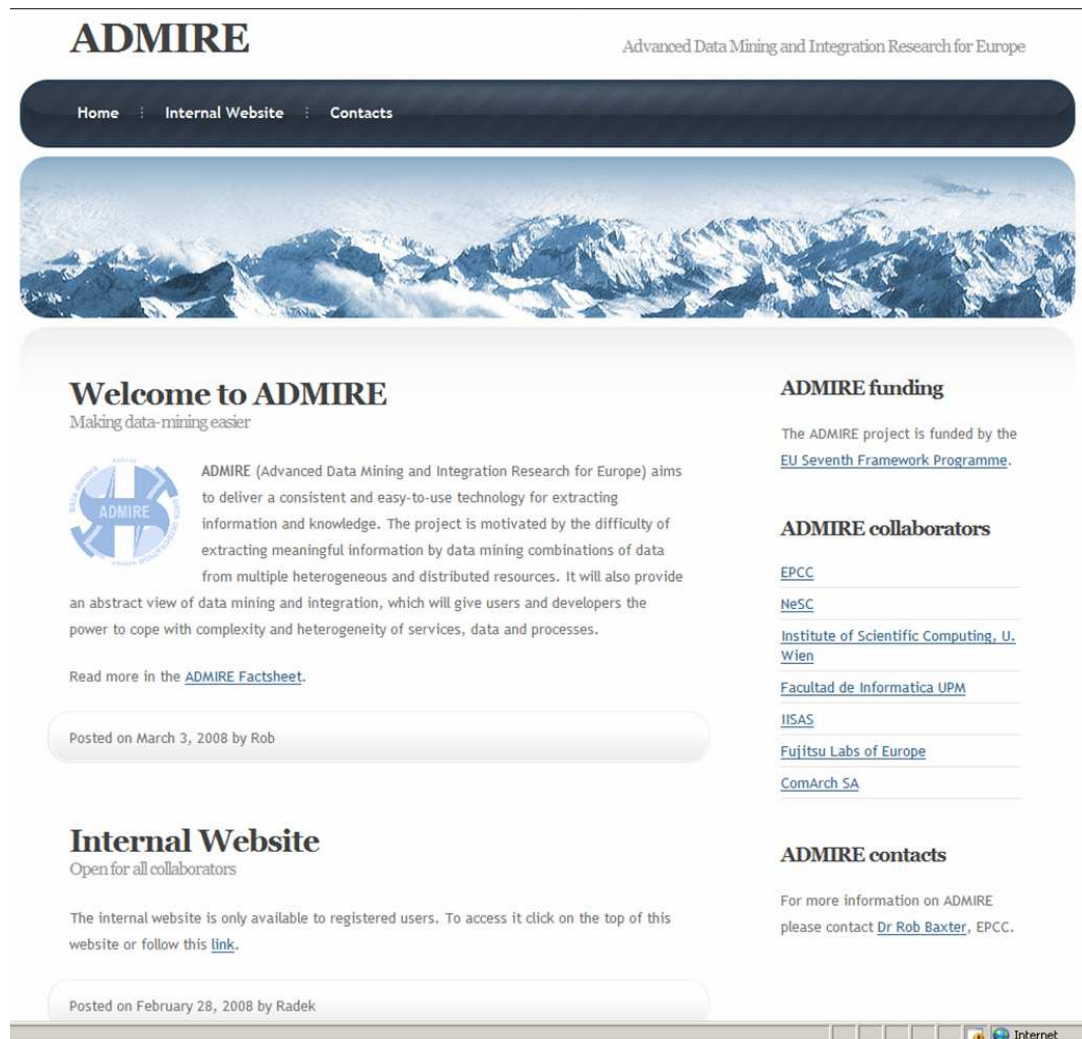


Figure 6 - Admire Homepage

*Public section:*

- A single page with overview, partners list, contact and a link to the fact sheet

*Community (private area):*

The community section is based on the open software offered by Edgewall.

- Wiki
- Project status visualization
- File sharing (attachments onto wiki pages)

*Comment:*

The whole site and project presentation consists in a single page, but it gives all the information that is needed.

The community section is based on the open software called Trac that is defined as an

“enhanced wiki”, meaning that, besides the tool to collaboratively add and modify contents, there is also a system that tracks the status of the tasks. It is accessible only by the team members.

[www.ict-ROMULUS.eu/home](http://www.ict-ROMULUS.eu/home)

**Project Description**

Domain Driven Design and Mashup Oriented Development based on Open Source Java Metaframework for Pragmatic, Reliable and Secure Web Development

**Introduction**

The main concept of ROMULUS is researching on novel methods for increasing productivity and reliability of web software development, in particular, focused on Java web development.

ROMULUS proposal is based on recognising some of the deficiencies of standard Java Enterprise Edition, and proposing a new paradigm for developing web applications taking advantage of new trends in software engineering, such as domain driven design combined with agile development methodologies, and some of the principles from Ruby on Rails.

In order to have a serious impact, the project does not start from scratch, it is based on two mature open source projects, Roma and LIFERAY, which will be extended according to this proposal needs and following an open source project development methodology, in order to disseminate and exploit the results of the project. The idea of using these projects is to solve the former problems, with Roma will get to make Java application development easy, integrate frameworks and tools using a metaframework and decreasing the implementation time. While with LIFERAY, we are integrating the leading enterprise open source portal framework, with relevant industrial references.

**News**

**Technical Meeting**

**Madrid, February.** Last February 21th, some partners (Gesfor, Liferay and UPM) met in UPM University (Madrid). The topics covered in this meeting were OWASP Security Recommendations and the new trends in Web Applications Developed, focused in Ruby on Rails and Grails. Also, other topics about project achievement were discussed.

**Kick off meeting**

**Madrid January 14th, 15th.** Kick-off meeting. Romulus partners have attended the project kick-off meeting organised by Gesfor and hosted at UPM (Madrid, Spain). Two long (but productive) days discussing and planning in order to fulfill the project objectives. This first Romulus Consortium Meeting was focused on early steps of the project.

**Blogs**

Search  **SEARCH ENTRIES**

**Romulus is presented at ICT FP7 Event 1st Call**  
By Carlos A. Iglesias, On 3/5/08 4:41 PM

**Figure 7 - Romulus Homepage**

*Public sections:*

- Project overview and approach
- News
- Project goals
- A list of partners
- Community (“information about project development”)
- Blog
- Calendar
- Publications (rich section with presentations, brochures and a tutorial)
- Contact



### *Community (private area):*

A professional company called Liferay hosts the community section. The list of features that follows is taken from <http://www.liferay.com>.

- Blog
- Wiki
- Forum
- Internal message (e-mail) system
- Calendar
- Chat

### *Other services:*

- Search box
- Blog roll (a list of related blogs)

### *Comment:*

The public sections are designed with great care and rich in their contents, however it is not clear what the Community page among the public sections aims at.

It is impossible to visit the private section because the access is given only to the team members, thus the analysis has been based on the features declared on the provider site.

## **Conclusions**

In conclusion, some lessons can be learned from this analysis about how to design a public website that aims at the presentation of a research project and at the dissemination of its results. These can be summarized in the following suggestions.

We saw that generally the **public sections** covered the same contents in all the four analyzed websites. The only remark that can be done is that a complete website should have some rich but still clear pages whose aim is to publicly explain the overview, vision and objectives of the project to both researchers and non-experts.

As regards the “**community area**” , a few more words can be said.

The following table is a summary of the tools used and the services offered in the private sections of the four analyzed websites; it is displayed here in order to facilitate a comparison between them but above all to offer an overview on all the possible elements that can be placed in a website of this kind.

	Shape	Alive	Admire	Romulus
Blog				
Bookmarking				
Calendar				
Chat				
Comments				
File sharing				
Forum				
Mail system				
Poll				
Profile				
Tasks tracking				
Wiki				
Blog roll				
Contact facilities				
Feeds				
Searchbox				
Text buttons				

**Table 1 - Summary of community tools and services offered in the analyzed sites**

Alive Project website does not seem to be as rich as all the others in its private area, but actually, it was the only one we could personally investigate, since all the others did not allow access to visitors who are not part of the project team.

While visiting the four analyzed websites, we noticed how in most of them only team members are allowed to access dynamic areas and add or modify contents, but this goes against the purpose of dissemination and involvement of this kind of websites. Therefore, here we want to suggest an alternative way to face this topic that can be called the “two-level” private area.

The “first level” private area is for any user who is willing to register. In this area they can find those tools that enhance collaboration both giving to all users the freedom to add their contents and to view the activities of other members: also people who are not working on the project may drop an idea, add a comment, leave a suggestion and so on.

The access to the “second level” private area is instead given only through an invite, that is only to people who are involved into the project; these do not necessarily include only team members but also, for example, heads of other projects, businessmen, other researchers...

This area could collect those contents that cannot be shown to the public, for example, an ongoing brainstorming activity for a new idea, or some technical details about the project, but also pictures, videos and trivia materials collected during meetings or leisure time activities of the team members.

## References

Admire project - [admire1.epcc.ad.ac.uk](http://admire1.epcc.ad.ac.uk)

Alive project - [www.ist-ALIVE.eu](http://www.ist-ALIVE.eu)

Edgewall Trac Wiki [www.edgewall.org/trac](http://www.edgewall.org/trac)

Liferay - [www.liferay.com](http://www.liferay.com)

Romulus project - [www.ict-romulus.eu/home](http://www.ict-romulus.eu/home)

Shape project - [www.shape-project.eu](http://www.shape-project.eu)

Sintef eRoom - <https://project.sintef.no/eRoomHelp/en/eRoom-7.htm>